

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 /071 W

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R 071150Z DEC 74

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 225

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2230

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, WB, GW

SUBJ: AIR TRANSPORT OF PRISONERS

REF: A. USBERLIN 2188; B. USBERLIN 2187, C. USBERLIN 2186,
D. BONN 18556

1. ON DECEMBER 3, SENAT MADE FORMAL REQUEST OF ALLIES
TO PROVIDE AIRCRAFT IN THE FUTURE AT ANY TIME AND
WITHOUT DELAY TO TRANSPORT PRISONERS FROM BERLIN
TO THE FRG. SENAT VERMERK NOTED DIFFICULTIES OF
PAST WEEKEND IN OBTAINING TRANSPORTATION FOR ULRIKE MENHOF.

2. US AND UK MISSIONS HAVE AGREED TO RECOMMEND TO EMBASSIES
RESPONSE TO SENAT REQUEST WHICH WOULD INSIST THAT SENAT
UNDERTAKE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WELL IN ADVANCE: NOTE
THAT ALLIES WOULD CHECK WITH AIRLINES TO ASCERTAIN
NAMES OF ALLIED CARRIERS POSSIBLY WILLING TO UNDERTAKE
THIS TASK; AND STATE THAT AS LAST RESORT SENAT COULD
TURN TO ALLIES WHICH WOULD THEN DECIDE WHAT ACTION BE
TAKEN IN VIEW OF EXISTING SITUATION. WE AGREE THAT ALLIES
SHOULD DECLINE TO GIVE BLANKET COMMITMENT THAT AIRCRAFT WOULD
BE PROVIDED, BUT RECOMMEND THEY STATE THEIR WILLINGNESS
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TO DO THEIR UTMOST TO ENSURE THAT AIR TRANSPORT WOULD

BE AVAILABLE. WE PROPOSE THAT CHAIRMAN COMMANDANT
FOR MONTH IN WHICH REQUEST MADE HAVE PRELIMINARY ACTION
RESPONSIBILITY.

3. WITH RESPECT TO ALLIES SOUNDING OUT AIRLINES, WE SHOULD
MENTION THAT BRITISH MISSION HERE OVER PAST WEEKEND ENGAGED
IN EXTENSIVE TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH LONDON, WHICH
RESULTED IN IDENTIFYING A BRITISH CHARTER COMPANY, MCALPINE,
WHICH WAS WILLING TO PROVIDE AIRCRAFT TO PICK MEINHOF
UP MIDDAY MONDAY. BRITISH WERE ANNOYED WHEN AFTER ALL
THEIR EFFORTS SENAT DECIDED THAT MEINHOF HAD TO BE MOVE
EVEN SOONER AND PLACED EXTREME PRESSURE ON FRENCH EMB BONN
VIA FRG GOVERNMENT. BRITISH EXAMPLE SUGGESTS THAT THERE
MAY BE OTHER CHARTER COMPANIES NOT NORDINARILY OPERATING IN
BERLIN OR FRG WHICH COULD FILL BREACH WHEN TRANSPORT
NEEDED IN THE FUTURE, WITH LESS RISK, PERHAPS, OF REPRISAL.
HOWEVER, SUCH COMPANIES WOULD NOT NORMALLY HAVE
CORRIDOR-QUALIFIED CREW IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE AND MIGHT
THEREFORE REQUIRE MORE ADVANCE NOTICE THAN BERLIN-BASED
COMPANIES OR ALLIED AIR FORCES.

4. FRENCH MISSION HERE IS IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH ABOVE
APPROACH BUT NOTES THAT EMBASSIES IN BONN MAY ALSO BE ASKED TO PROVIDE

TRANSPORTATION FROM FRG TO BERLIN. FRENCH ALSO HAVE RAISED SUGGESTION
THAT WE MIGHT WISH TO APPROACH GERMANS, IN BERLIN OR BONN, TO STATE
THAT WHEN SEVERAL JURISDICTIONS ARE POSSIBLE, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE
TO TRY NOTORIUS OFFENDERS SOMEWHERE OTHER THAN BERLIN. FRENCH AGREE
THAT
ALLIED CIVIL AIR RIGHTS ALSO MEAN THAT ALLIES HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES,
BUT FRENCH WOULD LIKE TO MAKE POINT CLEAR THAT THESE RESPONSIBILITIES
SHOULD BE CALLED UPON ONLY AS RARELY AS POSSIBLE.

5. WE KNOW OF NO CONTROVERSIAL PRISONERS REQUIRING TRANSPORT TO
FRG IN NEXT FEW DAYS OR EVEN WEEKS. HOWEVER, WE ANTICIPATE THAT SOME
FO BAADER-MEINHOF GROUP NOW IN BERLIN JAILS MAY FACE SUBSEQUENT TRIALS

IN FRG OR, MORE LIKELY, BE CALLIED UPON TO APPREAR AS WITNESSES IN FRG

COURTS. WE ARE POUCHING SENAT VERMERK TO BONN AND WOULD APPRECIATE
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EARLY VIEWS RE SUGGESTIONS PARAS 2 AND 3 ABOVE.SELIGMANN

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